

# City of Rockaway Beach

## Sourcewater Protection Plan Development Advisory Committee (SPPDAC) Meeting Minutes



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**Date:** Monday, June 17, 2024  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER – Sandra Johnson, Chair

Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

### 2. ROLL CALL

**Committee Members Present:** Sandra Johnson, Jason Maxfield, Lydia Hess, Ron Cleman, Jay Udelhoven (Zoom)

**Council Members Present:** Alesia Franken, City Council Liaison, and Mayor Charles McNeilly

**Staff Present:** Luke Shepard, City Manager; and Melissa Thompson, City Recorder

**Consultants Present:** Suzanne de Szoeki and Mikaela Clarke, GSI Water Solutions, Inc. (Zoom)

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

McNeilly noted a correction to the April 29, 2024 meeting minutes.

Hess made a **motion**, seconded by Maxfield, to approve the April 29, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

The **motion carried** unanimously.

Johnson noted that a watershed tour referenced in the minutes had occurred. She thanked those who participated and coordinated the tour. At the request of Udelhoven, Johnson confirmed that there would be opportunity for discussion prior to voting on motions. Johnson noted that the SPPDAC meeting documents and a form for submitting comments could be found on the City website.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Webster submitted a flyer and spoke regarding an upcoming North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection (NCCWP) speaker event on June 22, 2024.

Daniel Howlett spoke regarding Nedonna Beach waterline improvements and advocated for consideration of sewerline improvements. Howlett encouraged conversation regarding annexation.

Mary McGinnis, City Councilor, addressed questions she received regarding the City's interest in purchasing tax lot 2800. McGinnis shared a map with the Committee and explained that the largest tributary going into Jetty Creek comes out of that tax lot.

Penny Cheek, City Councilor, thanked the committee members for giving their time and efforts toward the success of the Committee.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Review of Overarching and Current Objectives**

Suzanne de Szoeki, GSI Water Solutions, Inc., shared a presentation providing an overview of a Drinking Water Protection Plan (DWPP), as well as overarching and current goals and objectives. Udelhoven expressed preference for a broad approach including infrastructure. McNeilly noted that the adopted purpose of the Committee did not include infrastructure, and suggested comments regarding infrastructure could be submitted to the City Council.

There was discussion regarding the estimated schedule, and a suggestion to refer to the public engagement meetings as “Town Halls.” It was suggested a committee member could attend the DWPP Team meetings as an observer. There was discussion regarding the scope of the committee’s purpose, and the importance of the primary and backup drinking water sources. There was a suggestion regarding a storage reservoir, and questions regarding potential liability associated with land ownership.

### **b. Identifying Risks**

- i. Preliminary Rockaway Beach Drinking Water Protection Plan (DWPP) Risks Table (Surface Water)**
- ii. Rockaway Beach DWPP Risks to Groundwater Table**

Suzanne de Szoeki, GSI Water Solutions, Inc., summarized the source water area risks tables, and answered clarifying questions for the committee. Committee members reviewed and provided comments on the tables. There were requests to clarify whether a gravel borrow pit was active in the sourcewater area (SWA). Committee suggestions for additional risks to add included stored liquid mercury, excessive herbicide use, a dike that separates Nedonna from the river, tsunami inundation, tourism and potential development. There were suggestions to include information regarding water use, projections for future water needs, and consideration of additional water sources. It was suggested to separate forestry activities into the upper and lower watershed, and to address different strategies for areas with different landowners. It was proposed that comments be added to infrastructure to note that the city is replacing Nedonna Beach waterlines and has a leak detection program in place.

There was discussion regarding the sourcewater assessment, concern regarding liability, and a suggestion for a more recent assessment. De Szoeki commented that she could contact the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to request updated assessment maps, and it was suggested that consideration of liability could be added to strategies.

De Szoeki explained that updated risk tables would be distributed to the committee for review at the next meeting, and additional suggestions could be submitted to her.

**c. Prioritizing Risks**

De Szoeki provided an overview of the Risk Prioritization Examples. Committee members reviewed and provided comments. McNeilly and Maxfield expressed support for the 3x3 risk prioritization model. Udelhoven suggested the 5x5 model should be used if data supported it. Franken expressed some agreement with Udelhoven. De Szoeki noted that there weren't big pools of data to draw from. Clemen advocated for the 5x5 model.

After discussion, Maxfield made a **motion**, seconded by Hess, to default to the 3x3 matrix, unless an issue proved more complicated, and that evaluation didn't do it justice.

Johnson invited discussion. Clemen stated he stood by his comments to use the 5x5 model.

The **motion failed** by the following vote:

Aye: 2 (Maxfield, Hess)

Nay: 3 (Clemen, Johnson, Udelhoven)

Clemen made a **motion**, seconded by Udelhoven, to use the 5x5 model.

Johnson invited discussion. Udelhoven stated that he preferred the more rigorous analysis, and if those doing the analysis determined it was impossible to use, then they could default to the 3x3 model.

The **motion carried** unanimously.

**d. Next Steps**

Johnson invited Committee comments. Clemen inquired if Jetty Creek provided sufficient water for annual usage. Johnson suggested that issue could be addressed in the strategies. Shepard explained that the City hasn't come close to running out, but in some years the City has come close to reaching its in-stream water right. Clemen inquired about the leakage project. Shepard explained that the mainline repair project was awaiting state funding.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Maxfield made a **motion**, seconded by Hess, to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Johnson invited discussion. Shepard confirmed for Hess that he would send out poll for scheduling of the next meeting.

The **motion carried** unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED THE  
9TH DAY OF JULY 2024

[REDACTED]

Sandra Johnson, Chair

ATTEST

[REDACTED]

Melissa Thompson, City Recorder